

"ports of the British Possessions in North America, except for the purposes of shelter and repairing damages, of purchasing wood, and obtaining water; that they have no right to enter at the British Custom Houses, or to trade, except for the purchase of wood and water, and that they must depart after twenty-four hours' notice to leave."

He further states that:—"So far as the claim is founded on alleged construction of the Convention of 1818, it cannot be acquiesced in by the United States;" and that "It is hoped that it will not be insisted upon by Her Majesty's Government." He maintains that that principle was contended for at the conferences preceding the Convention of 1818, by the British Commissioners, and, on its rejection by the American Commissioners, was abandoned by the British; and that Article I., as it stands in the Convention, was substituted.

He further observes that, "If this claim is founded on Provincial or Colonial Statutes, and not upon the Convention, this Government cannot but regard them as unfriendly, and in contravention of the spirit if not the letter of the Treaty, for the faithful execution of which the Imperial Government is alone responsible."

Such are the statements of President Grant; and if he believes that he has truly stated the case, in relation to the fisheries, then he is much mistaken. Now what are the facts? To ascertain them, we must go back to a period anterior to the Treaty of 1783, when as British subjects, the inhabitants of the old American Colonies, after Canada and Nova Scotia were wrested from the Kingdom of France, enjoyed, with the inhabitants of the other British Colonies, a common use of the fisheries along the whole North American Atlantic Coast, with certain exceptions on the coast of Labrador and a portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the coast of what is now known as New Brunswick.

In the discussions and negotiations which preceded the peace of 1783, an effort was made by the American Commissioners to claim a right to the fisheries on the coasts on which they had prosecuted them while still British subjects. They claimed that, at the time they were British subjects, they had assisted to wrest Nova Scotia and Cape Breton from France, and that, by right of conquest, they should participate and enjoy, in common with British subjects, the privileges of these fisheries. The British Commissioners, on the other hand, contended that the conquest was achieved by Great Britain, and that though the subjects of Her Majesty in the old Colonies had aided as they were bound, as part of the Empire, to do, in securing victory to the British arms, that the acquisition of Nova Scotia and the other Territories wrested from France, with

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